

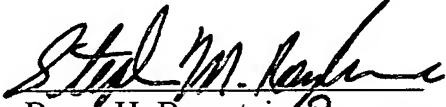
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REMARKS

By the above amendment, claims 3-6 and 8 have been amended to delete multiple dependency.

If there should be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mikio WATANABE et al.

  
Bruce H. Bernstein  
Reg. No. 29,027 *Reg No. 31,226*

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GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.  
1941 Roland Clarke Place  
Reston, VA 20191  
(703) 716-1191

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**APPENDIX**  
**MARKED-UP COPY OF CLAIM AMENDMENTS**

3. (Amended) The method for producing a cyclic lactic acid oligomer according to [claim 1 or 2] claim 1, wherein said alkali metal compound is a compound of formula (2) wherein Y is -O- or -S-.

4. (Amended) The method for producing a cyclic lactic acid oligomer according to [any one of claims 1 to 3] claim 1, wherein said alkali metal compound is a compound of formula (2) wherein Me is lithium.

5. (Amended) The method for producing a cyclic lactic acid oligomer according to [any one of claims 1 to 4] claim 1, wherein in formula (1), m is an integer of 1 to 21.

6. (Amended) The method for producing a cyclic lactic acid oligomer according to [any one of claims 1 to 5] claim 1, wherein said alkali metal compound is any of: a compound of formula (2) wherein R is an aliphatic group having 4 or more carbon atoms, a compound of formula (2) wherein R is an aromatic group and Y is -S-; or a compound of formula (2) wherein R is  $-\text{CH}(\text{R}^{20})\text{CONR}^{21}\text{R}^{22}$  wherein  $\text{R}^{20}$  represents an aliphatic group and of  $\text{R}^{21}$  and  $\text{R}^{22}$  independently represents a hydrogen atom, aliphatic group or aromatic group.

8. (Amended) A cyclic lactic acid oligomer, which is produced by the method for producing a cyclic lactic acid oligomer according to [any one of claims 1 to 7] claim 1.